

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04559 01 OF 02 141013Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----031173 141015Z /14

R 140625Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8776
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 4559

EXDIS

3.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF, KU
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FOREIGN MINISTER ON SECRETARY'S
MIDDLE EAST TOUR

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD
AUGUST 13 IN ORDER TO BRIEF HIM ON THE RESULTS OF
SECRETARY VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR AND OUR AMBASSADORIAL
MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN AMMAN ON AUGUST 6, HAVING
ARRANGED FOR THIS DATE IN THE HOPE OF HAVING PROMISED
ADDITIONAL BRIEFING MATERIAL ON SECRETARY'S VISITS TO TAIF
AND JERUSALEM, WHICH UNFORTUNATELY WAS NOT PROVIDED.

2. I BEGAN MY BRIEFING BY NOTING THAT MANY OF THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04559 01 OF 02 141013Z

RESULTS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF THE SECRETARY'S MIDDLE
EAST VISITS HAD ALREADY BEEN EXPOSED IN THE PRESS BUT THAT
I WOULD TRY TO PRESENT A FEW COMMENTS WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY
GIVE A BETTER INSIGHT INTO THE US POSITION AND INTENTIONS
WITH RESPECT TO A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. I THEN
PROCEEDED TO COVER THE POINTS MADE BY THE SECRETARY DURING
THE AMMAN AMBASSADORIAL MEETING AUGUST 6, REFERRING TO

A) THE SECRETARY'S CONCENTRATION ON SUBSTANCE, AS WELL AS PROCEDURE, B) HIS PRESENTATION OF A SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR GENEVA, C) HIS REQUEST FOR IDEAS TO BE INCLUDED IN PEACE TREATIES, AND D) HIS SEEKING OF A CONSENSUS TO HOLD MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS AMONG FONMINS IN NEW YORK TO ATTEND THE UNGA. FOLLOWING THIS, I DESCRIBED THE REACTIONS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES, STRESSING THE INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES DEMONSTRATED BY THE ARAB PARTIES. I ALSO TOLD SABAH AL-AHMAD THERE WAS NO PROGRESS IN NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES ON KEY ISSUES DURING THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS.

3. I OBSERVED THAT THE FONMIN WAS AWARE OF THE ISRAELI NEGATIVE POSITION OF BOTH PLO PARTICIPATION IN A GENEVA CONFERENCE AND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN ENTITY IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, I EXPLAINED THAT THE US POSITION TOWARD THE MEETING WITH THE PLO, WHICH IS RELATED TO A COMMITMENT MADE IN THE SINAI II DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, REMAINS THAT THE US WILL NOT BE WILLING TO MEET WITH THE PLO AS LONG AS IT HAS NOT RECOGNIZED THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL. IF THE PLO WOULD ACCEPT UN RES. 242, WHICH INVOLVES IN OUR VIEW THE ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE, THE, AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ALREADY PUBLICLY INDICATED, THE US WOULD IMMEDIATELY BEGIN TALKS WITH THE PLO. I AMPLIFIED THIS STATEMENT BY NOTING THAT US WOULD BE WILLING TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04559 01 OF 02 141013Z

AGREE TO SUCH A PLO ACCEPTANCE EVEN IF IT WERE QUALIFIED BY A RESERVATION NOTING THAT RES. 242 DOES NOT ADEQUATELY DEAL WITH PALESTINIAN INTERESTS--DEPENDING UPON THE WORDING OF THE RESERVATION, OF COURSE. I TOLD SABAH AL-AHMAD THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD INDICATED TO US THE US VIEW WAS THAT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THEIR INCLUSION IN WITH A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION OR IN THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION.

4. AS FOR THE TIMING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE, I TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT SECRETARY VANCE FELT THAT WE WERE NOT BOUND BY A SELF-IMPOSED OCTOBER DEADLINE, BUT THAT HE HOPES THAT IT COULD BE CONVENED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. I EXPLAINED HOW THE SECRETARY HAD FOUND THAT, WHILE THE ARAB NATIONS DESIRED TO SEE SOME SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE THE MEETING IS CONVENED, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PREFERRED TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. I TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS THE SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT SOME PRIOR PROGRESS WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING THE CONFERENCE STALL OR STAGNATE.

5. I INFORMED THE FONMIN OF THE PROCEDURES WHICH THE SECRETARY FOLLOWED IN KEEPING THE SOVIET UNION, AS GENEVA CO-CHAIRMAN, GENERALLY INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS.

6. SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS DETAILED BRIEFING AND COMMENDED THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS, BUT WISHES THAT HE COULD HAVE MADE MORE PROGRESS TOWARD AN EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT. HE RECOGNIZED WHAT A DIFFICULT TASK IT WAS AND SAID THAT HE FELT SORRY FOR PRESIDENT CARTER BECAUSE OF THE MAJOR OBSTACLES OPPOSING IN HIS EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT HIS MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY. COMMENTING ON THE WORKING GROUP
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 KUWAIT 04559 01 OF 02 141013Z

IDEA, THE FONMIN REGARDED SADAT'S PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS PROPOSAL AS UNFORTUNATE IN THAT IT SUGGESTED THAT THE ARABS DID NOT WANT THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO THE TRHUGH.

NOTE: LIMDIS CAPTION DELETED, HANDLE AS EXDIS PER
KUWAIT 4564.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04559 02 OF 02 141019Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----031194 141020Z /12

R 140625Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8777

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 4559

EXDIS

7. THE FONMIN DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, NOTING THAT HE HAD, DURING THE PAST WEEK, DISCUSSED WITH PLO LEADER ABU IYAD THE QUESTION OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF UN RES. 242 AND OTHER MATTERS INVOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. ABU IYAD HAD INDICATED TO HIM THAT THE PLO WAS NOT ESSENTIALLY OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING UN RES. 242, BUT IT WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF GUARANTEE IT COULD GET THAT THIS ACTION WOULD HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS. THE PLO COULD SEE NO PURPOSE IN OFFERING THIS CONCESSION IN THE LIGHT OF FLAT ISRAELI STATEMENTS THAT THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO PLO ATTENDANCE AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE IN ANY WAY AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

I REMINDED THE FONMIN THAT THE PRESERVATION OF ISRAEL'S
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04559 02 OF 02 141019Z

SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN US FOREIGN POLICY, THEREFORE, THE PLO, BY ACCEPTING THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, WOULD NOT BE CONCEDING ANYTHING IT COULD HOPE TO GAIN. SABAH AL-AHMAD INTERJECTED THAT NO ONE SHOULD BELIEVE THAT THE PLO HAS ANY REAL HOPE OF ELIMINATING ISRAEL. IN FACT, ALL ARABS WANT TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PERMIT ARABS AND ISRAELIS TO EXIST IN PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY WOULD BE HAPPY IF THE ISRAELIS WOULD SHOW REAL WILLINGNESS TO ACHIEVE THIS SAME PEACE.

8. THE FONMIN SAID HE WOULD ENCOURAGE THE PLO TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE ADVANTAGE OF ACCEPTING UN RESOLUTION 242. I URGED HIM TO DO SO AND SUGGESTED THAT AN EARLY PLO ACCEPTANCE WOULD, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS, HAVE A CONSIDERABLE IMPACT. SABAH AL-AHMAD SAID HE WOULD AWAIT THE VIEWS OF HIS ARAB BROTHERS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY IN ORDER TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE IN THIS REGARD.

9. COMMENT: I REGRET THAT I WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE SABAH AL-AHMAD WITH A BRIEFING ON THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA EVEN THOUGH IT WERE ONLY ATMOSPHERIC IN CONTENT, SINCE THE FONMIN EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN HOW THE CONVERSATIONS WITH SAUDI LEADERS WENT. I BELIEVE THAT SABAH AL-AHMAD IS QUITE SYMPATHETIC TOWARD US EFFORTS TO MAKE

PROGRESS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND COULD BE
OF HELP IN CONVINCING THE PLO TO ACCEPT UN RES. 242,
PARTICULARLY IF IT WERE CLEAR THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND THE
CONFRONTATION STATES WERE DOING THE SAME. AS ONE OF THE
PLO'S MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS, KUWAIT'S INFLUENCE, IN
CONCERT WITH OTHER ARABS, COULD BE IMPORTANT IN THIS
REGARD. WHILE I REALIZE THE SECRETARY WILL HAVE A MAN-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04559 02 OF 02 141019Z

KILLING SCHEDULE IN NEW YORK, I RECOMMEND THAT HE INVITE
FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD TO A DISCUSSION OF OUR PEACE EFFORTS,
IN ORDER TO ENLIST HIM AS A MORE ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF OUR
ENDEAVORS.

MAESTRONE

NOTE: LIMDIS CAPTION DELETED HANDLE AS EXDIS PER

KUWAIT 4564.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, DEBRIEFINGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, BRIEFINGS, PEACE PLANS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT04559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770300-0471
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770863/aaaacbfw.tel
Line Count: 244
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9326f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1606953
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING OF FOREIGN MINISTER ON SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR
TAGS: OVIP, MPOL, PDEV, PINR, XF, KU, IS, UNGA, PLO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (AL-AHMAD, SHAIKH SABAH), (MAESTRONE, FRANK E), (AL-SABAH SABAH AL-AMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9326f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009